AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 22 (amended).

In a needle point guard safety cap assembly having (1) a syringe attachment member operable to connect the needle point guard safety cap assembly to the needle hub of a syringe; (2) a needle point cover operable to enclose the needle tip when the needle point guard safety cap is actuated; and (3) an extensible frame having proximal and distal ends, the proximal end coupled to the syringe attachment member and the distal end coupled to the needle point cover,

at least one securing clip on the extensible frame to engage the needle shaft upon activation of the needle point guard safety cap assembly to prevent the needle tip from exiting the needle point cover and to provide tactile feedback to the user when the needle point guard safety cap assembly actuation is completed;

the [need] needle point guard safety cap assembly[, of Claim 13] further comprising interlocking members on the syringe attachment member and extensible frame operable to releasably lock the needle point guard safety cap assembly in an unactuated state, the interlocking members and securing clip further serving to provide tactile feedback to the user when the needle point guard safety cap assembly actuation is initiated and completed, respectively.

Claim 48 (amended).

A needle point shield integrally formed as a single plastic piece, comprising:

an elongated hollow member having two end walls with aligned openings through which a needle can extend when in an operative position;

a forward one of the end walls also having on its interior surface a well that is laterally displaced from the associated opening, and an interior ridge between the well and the end wall opening such that when the needle after its use is retracted through that end wall opening into the interior of the hollow member the tip of the retracted needle may then be securely retained within the well and thus protected from re-emerging outwardly through the end wall opening;

wherein the opening in the rearward one of the end walls provides a pivot support to permit the shield to twist relative to the needle passing through it, so that the needle tip then moves laterally from the opening in the forward end wall into the laterally displaced well; and

[a needle shield as in Claim 46] wherein the hollow member has a circumferentially continuous side wall, characterized in that the member is formed as a unitary molded plastic piece, and the [other] rearward end wall thereof is formed as a lid pivotable into its operative position and then comes into cork-like engagement with the side wall of the member.

Claim 54 (amended). A needle point shield as in Claim 53 wherein the [othr] other end wall thereof is formed as a lid pivotable into its operative position.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (allowed).

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claims 14-21 (allowed).

Claim 22 (formerly dependent on rejected Claim 13; currently amended into independent form with corrected formatting).

Claims 23-27 (allowed).

Claims 28-31 (withdrawn by Examiner ruling; reserved by Applicants for possible inclusion in a Divisional Reissue application).

Claim 32 (canceled).

Claim 33 (withdrawn by Examiner ruling; reserved by Applicants for possible inclusion in a Divisional Reissue application).

Claims 34-39 (allowed).

Claims 40-44 (withdrawn by Examiner ruling; reserved by Applicants for possible inclusion in a Divisional Reissue application).

Claims 45-47 (canceled).

Claim 48 (formerly dependent on rejected Claims 45 and 46; currently amended into independent form with corrected formatting).

Claims 49 and 50 (now dependent upon the reformatted Claim 48).

Claim 51-52 (canceled).

Claim 53 (allowed).

Claim 54 (currently amended to correct clerical error with corrected formatting).

Claims 55-60 (allowed).

Claim 61 (canceled).